



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

APR 28 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION
DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT
DIRECTOR, FORCE TRANSFORMATION
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Foreign Area Officer Programs

I have just signed the revision to the DoD Directive 1315.17 "Military Department Foreign Area Officer Programs" that sets the stage for the development and sustainment of a robust Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program within the Department of Defense.

As a first step toward this objective, I ask the Secretaries of the Military Departments to develop a detailed FAO Action Plan for Deputy Secretary approval. Such Action Plan will include the number of military officers to be trained as FAOs and a description of a viable career path that provides the opportunity for promotion of these officers into the General/Flag ranks. Additionally, the plans must display those elements necessary to maintain a sufficient cadre of FAOs, in both the Active and Reserve Components, capable of serving in combined headquarters or standing Joint Task Forces and meeting other requirements determined by the Department. I encourage you to factor the Regional Centers into your Action Plans.

The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD (P&R)) will work with each Military Department in the development of these plans and will review the plans upon completion. The USD (P&R) will provide guidelines and milestones to ensure the timely and comprehensive completion of these plans. Based on each of the individual Military Department's Action Plans, USD(P&R), in coordination with CJCS, should present a Joint Plan for the Department no later than July 29, 2005. To meet this schedule, individual Military Departments should submit their plans by June 30, 2005.

Thank you for your attention to this important initiative.

cc:
COMMANDER, USEUCOM/SACEUR
COMMANDER, USNORTHCOM



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COMMANDER, USSOCOM
COMMANDER, STRATCOM
COMMANDER, USTRANSCOM
COMMANDER, USPACOM
COMMANDER, USSOUTHCOM
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COMMANDER, CENTCOM